



ACTING CONSCIOUSLY

Carbon Footprint Report of the e-systems Group 2018/19



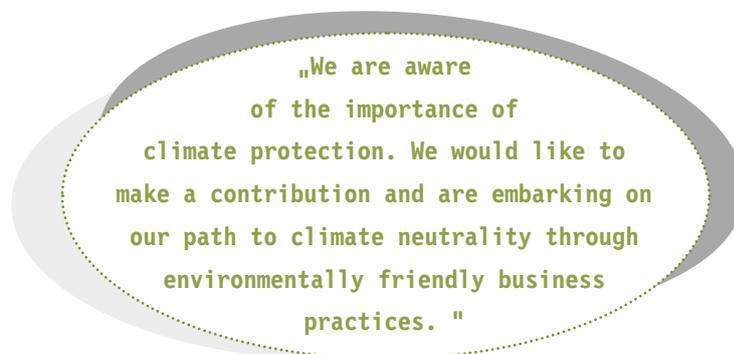
Going
further through
conscious actions.

Acting consciously

As a corporate family, we, the e-systems Group¹, support our customers in selling non-food products in a legally secure manner. In the European market, both national laws and general regulations are subject to constant change. In this context, it is difficult to keep track of these changes. Closing this gap is the goal of our e-systems family.

The three companies, take-e-way GmbH, get-e-right GmbH and trade-e-bility GmbH, based in Hamburg, are united under the umbrella of e-systems. With more than 6,000 customers from more than 42 countries and our international team of around 70 employees, e-systems offers solutions for the marketability of products, product stewardship under waste laws and the associated authorised services.

Taking responsibility is not only the core of our e-systems services, but also a fundamental value of our corporate group itself. In addition to the changing legal requirements and framework conditions at the European and national level, we see that within our corporate family and in society as a whole as well as for our business partners, a more responsible use of natural resources and heightened environmental awareness are becoming increasingly important. This is why we have set ourselves the goal of examining our CO₂ footprint, identifying approaches to reducing CO₂ emissions and implementing measures to keep our impact on the climate and the environment as low as possible. We base our actions on our carbon footprint guiding principle:



Based on this awareness, our slogan **acting consciously** arose, underpinning our active actions with regard to climate change.

With regard to climate change, we have identified indirect risks for ourselves due to the increasing effects on our customers and their dependence on global supply chains. At the same time, we are convinced that efforts to achieve climate neutrality and sustainable economic concepts will be in greater focus in the future and implemented even more comprehensively in European and national law. As a compliance service company, we see this as an opportunity to support our customers in fulfilling future obligations and implementing increasingly demanding environmental requirements.

¹ The name e-systems or e-systems group, consisting of take-e-way GmbH, get-e-right GmbH and trade-e-bility GmbH, reflects the legal entity e-systems Holding GmbH & Co. KG (formerly: GDM Gesellschaft für Dienstleistungsmanagement mbH & Co. KG).

Results

of the CO₂-Emissions Data of the e-systems Group

In the following, the CO₂ emissions of the greenhouse gas (GHG) Balance for the years 2018 and 2019 of the e-systems Group are presented. 2019 is used as the base year² for future measures and comparisons. The determination of the CO₂ emissions are based on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

In order to differentiate between direct and indirect emission sources and to improve transparency, the GHG Protocol defines three so-called scopes. **Scope 1** includes direct GHG emissions that come from the company's sources, e. g. through its own production machines. **Scope 2** includes indirect GHG emissions through e. g. the purchase of electrical energy for the company. **Scope 3** includes additional indirect GHG emissions that arise as a consequence of the company's business activities.

The e-systems Group's emissions totalled 141.33 tCO₂e³ in 2018 and 121.28 tCO₂e in 2019 (see Figure 1).

As can be seen in Figure 2, around two tCO₂e were caused per employee in 2019.

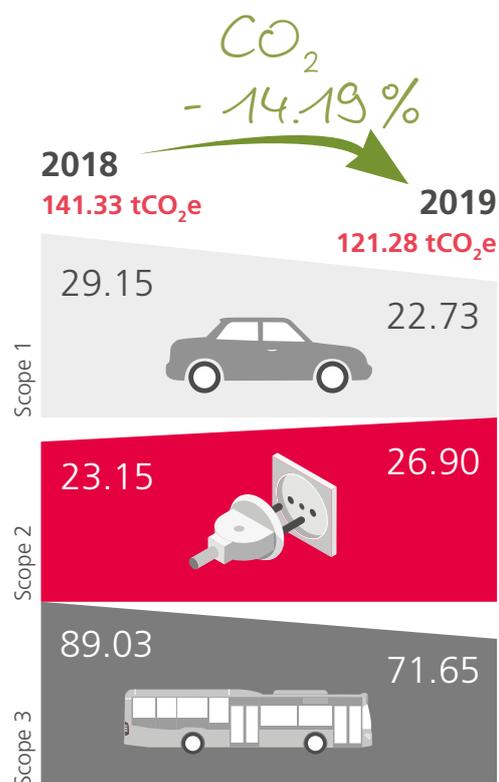


Figure 1: Comparison of CO₂ emissions between 2018 and 2019

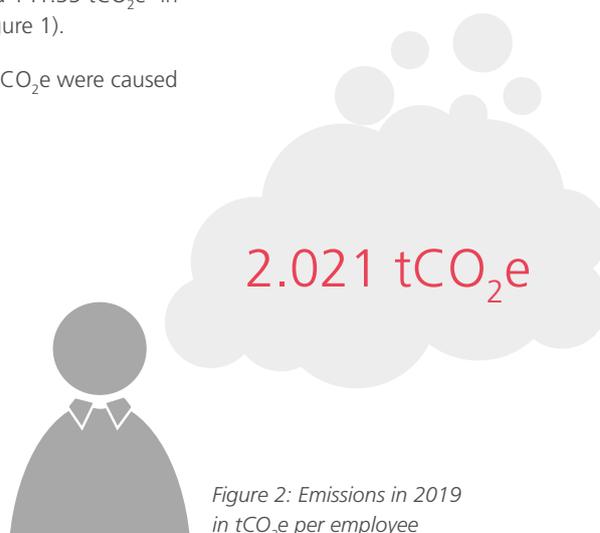


Figure 2: Emissions in 2019 in tCO₂e per employee

2 In 2020 we decided to meet our responsibility by implementing climate management. Due to the starting point in 2020, 2019 was chosen as the base year. By looking at 2018, an initial trend in CO₂ emissions could already be analysed.
 3 CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) indicates how much a certain mass of a greenhouse gas contributes to global warming compared to the same mass of CO₂. tCO₂e indicates this in tons.

For comparison

With our total emissions in 2019 of 121.28 tCO₂e, one person could fly approximately 34 times from Hamburg to New York and back.

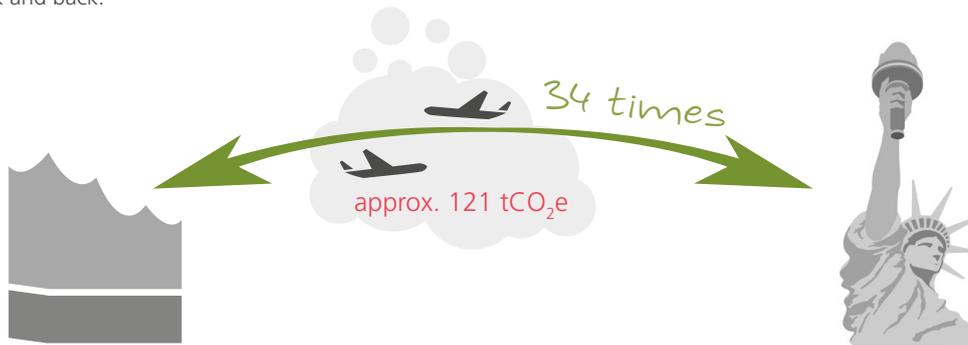


Figure 3: CO₂ emissions of the e-systems Group in relation

In 2018, emissions were 20.05 tCO₂e higher than in 2019, which is largely due to the greater distance from business trips in 2018. In 2019, the emissions caused are distributed across the various scopes and categories considered, as shown in Figure 4.

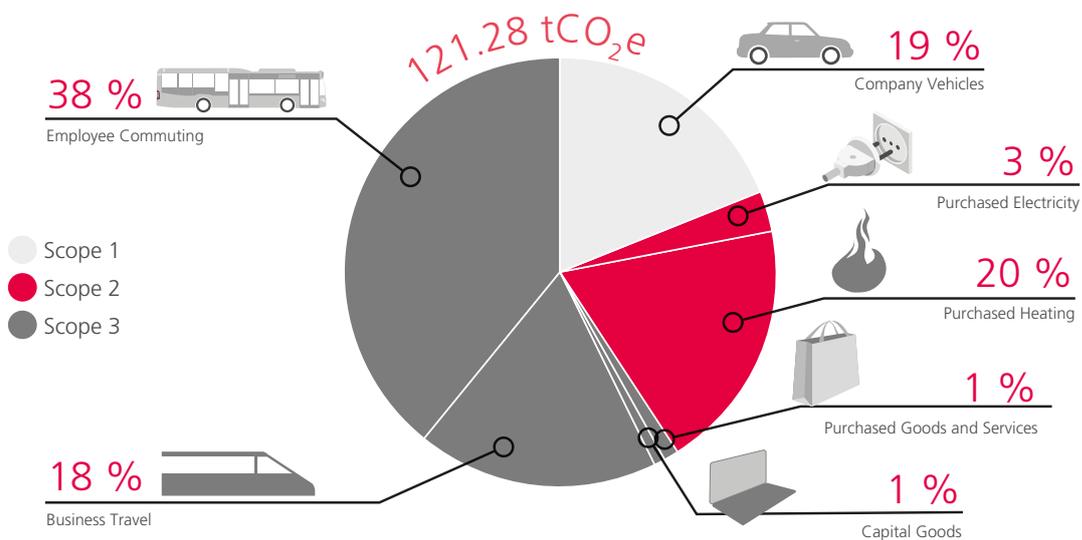


Figure 4: Percentage of tCO₂e per category in 2019

Scope 1

Scope 1 at the e-systems Group only includes the category **Company Vehicles**, in which the fuel of leased vehicles was also considered. This deviation from the GHG Protocol was deliberately implemented in order to set the incentive to also include leasing vehicles in the reduction measures and to compensate for the emissions, because we believe that fuel consumption is to be equated with that of our own vehicles. In 2019, the companies generated a total of 22.73 tCO₂e in the **Company Vehicles** category. An overview can be found in Figure 5.

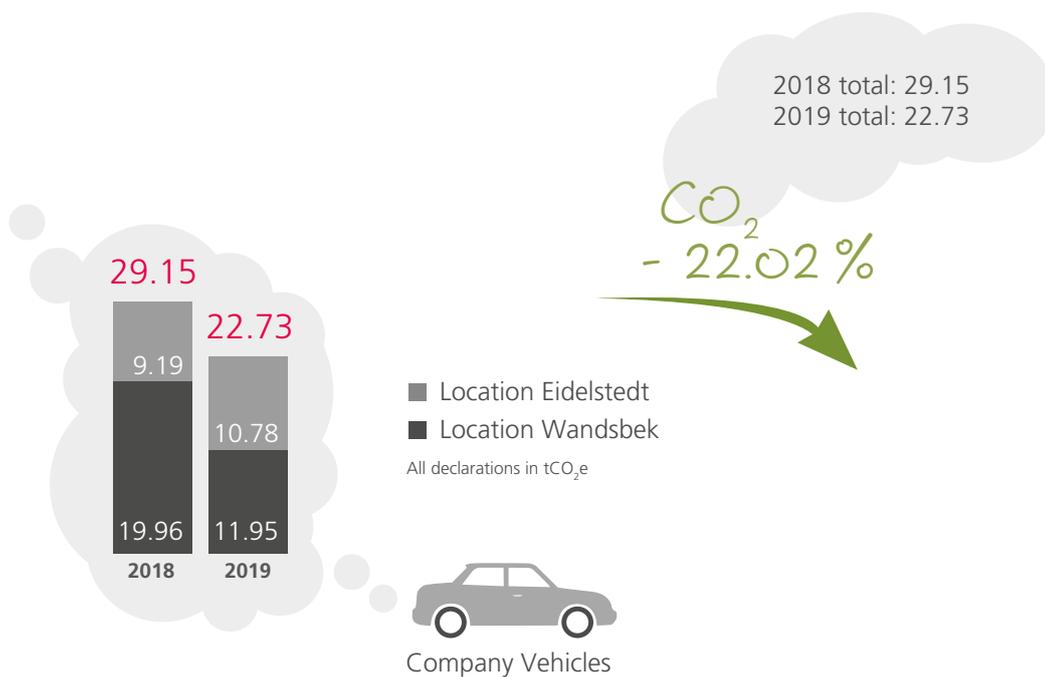


Figure 5: Scope 1 – Emissions of the e-systems companies in 2018 and 2019

Scope 2

Scope 2 takes purchased electrical energy and heating into account. For the Wandsbek location, electricity was obtained from renewable energies in 2018 and 2019. This enabled around 13 tCO₂e to be avoided in 2018 and around 12 tCO₂e in 2019.⁴ The entire e-systems Group recorded an emission of 3.30 tCO₂e for **Purchased Electricity** in 2019.

District heating at the Wandsbek site and natural gas at the Eidelstedt site were used as sources for heat. This resulted in total emissions of 23.60 tCO₂e for **Purchased Heating** in 2019. With 87.73 % in 2019, this reflected the largest proportion in Scope 2. An overview of the Scope 2 emissions can be found in the following figure.

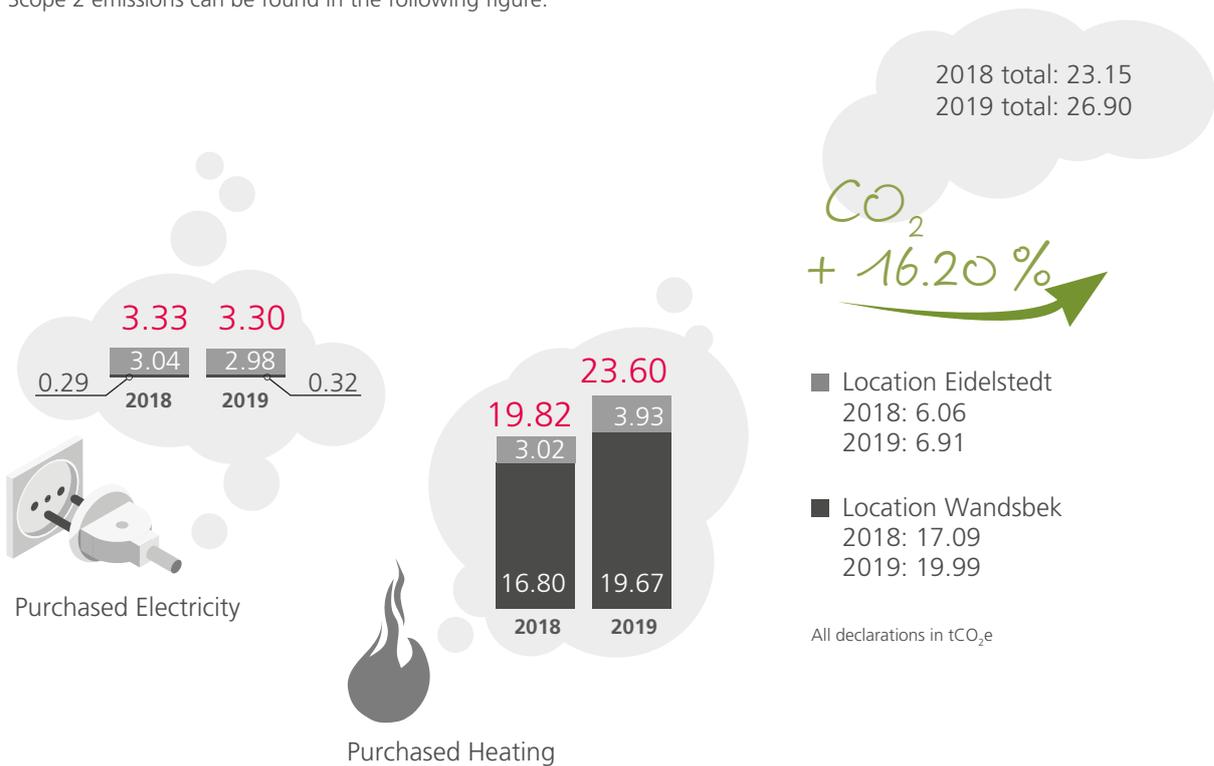


Figure 6: Scope 2 – Emissions of the e-systems companies in 2018 and 2019

⁴ The German electricity mix of 2018 and 2019 were used as the reference values.

Scope 3

Our e-systems Group of companies has decided to go beyond Scope 1 and Scope 2 for CO₂-accounting, as we see a great opportunity to positively influence our emissions in Scope 3, in particular. For this reason, data from the categories listed in Figure 7 were evaluated for the current report.

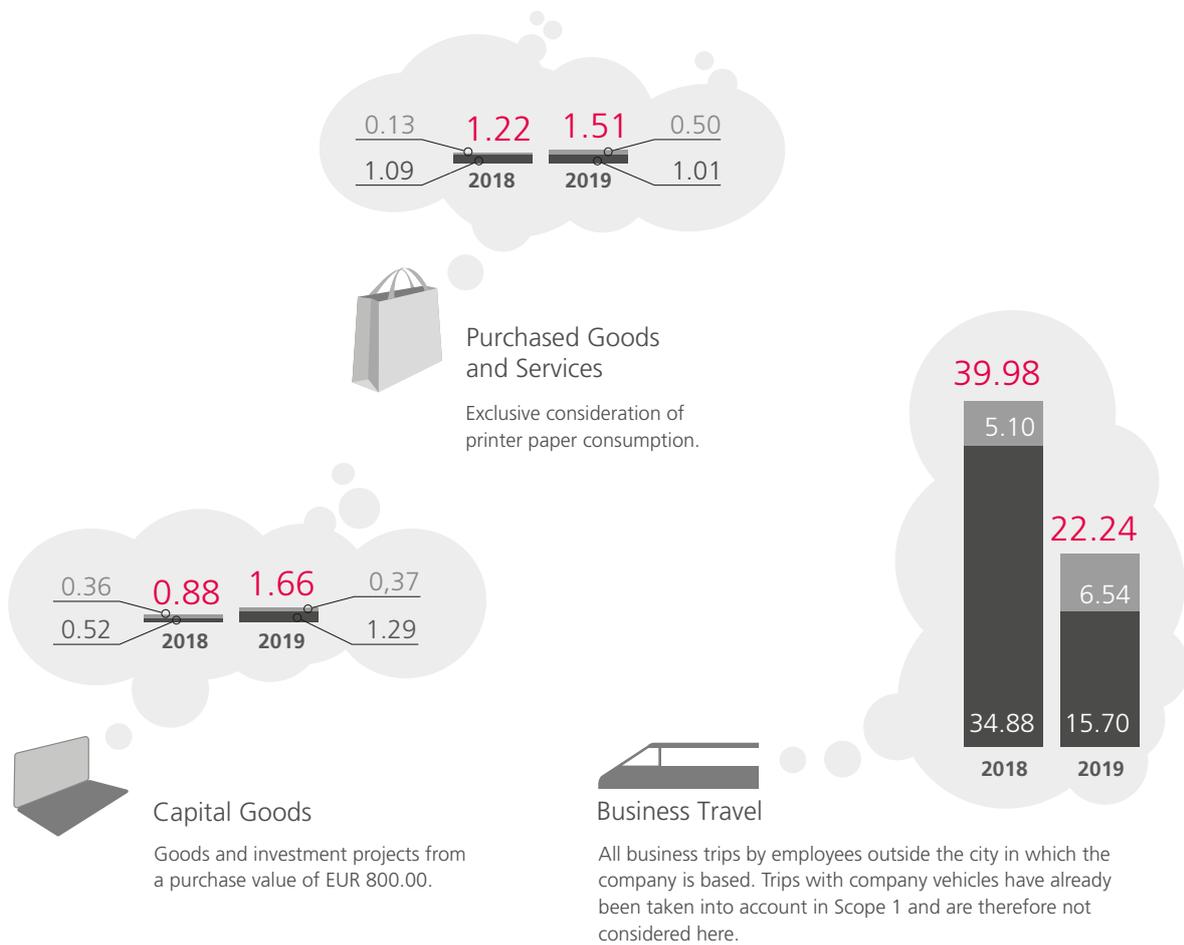
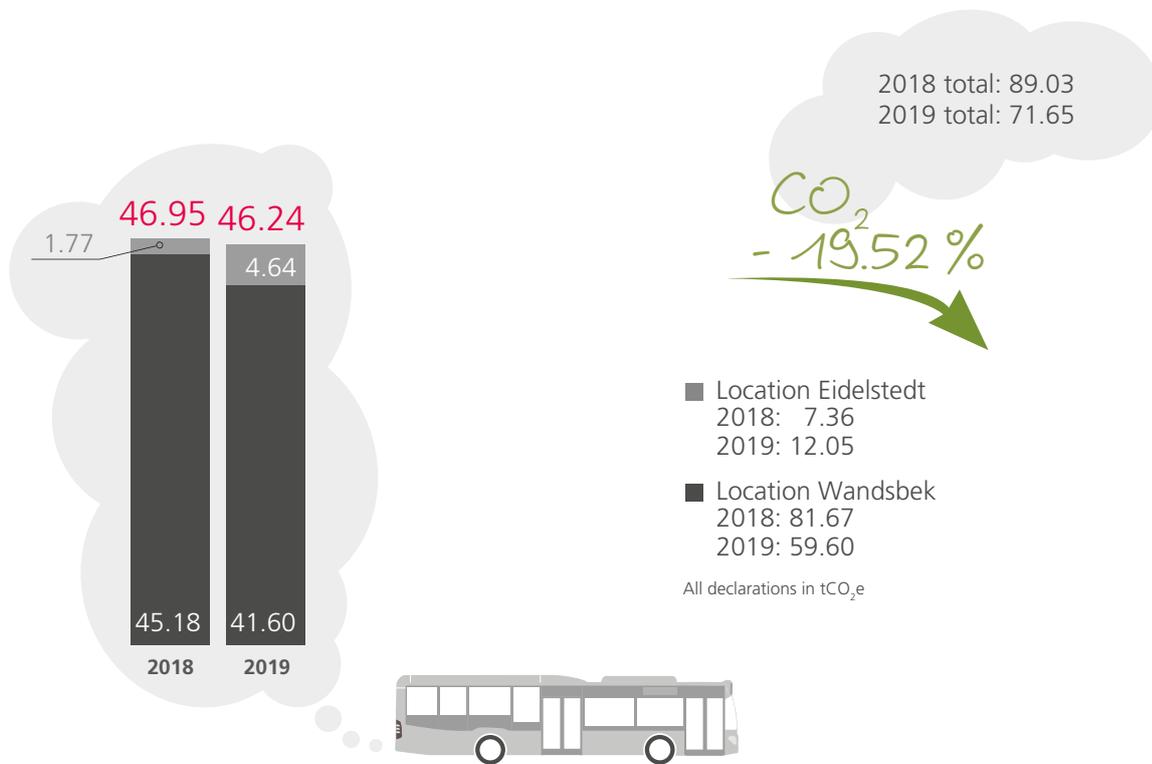


Figure 7: Scope 3 – Emissions of the e-systems companies in 2018 and 2019

Overall, the companies of the e-systems Group recorded emissions of 71.65 tCO₂e in Scope 3 in 2019. Figure 7 shows that in 2019 there was a significant reduction (19.52 %) in emissions recorded compared to 2018. This is primarily due to a reduction in business travel distances.



Employee Commuting

All journeys made by employees from their place of residence to the company's place of work are taken into account in this category. Trips with company vehicles have already been taken into account in Scope 1 and are therefore not considered here.

Method

of Carbon Footprint Accounting

The GHG balance shows which GHG emissions were caused by the business activities of the e-systems Group in 2018 and 2019. In the future, the e-systems Group will collect the CO₂ emissions data annually and publish the respective information. The calculation is based on the requirements of the GHG Protocol.

Scope of the Report

take-e-way GmbH, get-e-right GmbH as well as sub-tenants⁵ were located at the Wandsbek location in 2018/19. trade-e-bility GmbH was located in Eidelstedt. Due to the novelty of the topic for the e-systems Group, we decided to set the limits at the locations of the companies and, contrary to the method of the equity share approach⁶, not to exclude the emission shares of the sub-tenants. In doing so, we deviate from the underlying standard and consciously go beyond our limits. An adjustment of this procedure as well as the use of the equity share approach will be re-examined with increasing experience in carbon footprint management.

Covered Emissions and Categories

The listed Scope 1 category was considered based on the business activities of the e-systems Group. When selecting the Scope 3 categories, care was taken to ensure that the resulting emissions are of significant relevance for the overall balance or that there is a high degree of influence on the emissions. The inclusion of further Scope 3 categories will be checked again in the following years and adjusted if necessary. Figure 8 shows an overview of the covered emissions and categories.



5 The emissions of FHE Entsorgungsverband Gesellschaft zur Durchführung von Verbandslösungen und Dienstleistungen mbH and ENH Entsorgungsverband GmbH were taken into account until April 14, 2019 due to their move from the e-systems business premises at the Wandsbek location. The emissions from VERE e. V. at the Wandsbek site were included over the entire period.

6 According to the equity share approach, the greenhouse gases of an operation are assigned to the company depending on the equity ratio or the share equity stake.

Data Quality

The collection of the data is largely based on billing and consumption values. However, in order to be able to present a complete and realistic picture of the CO₂ emissions, the data had to be extrapolated or estimated in a few cases. This applies, in particular, to the category of **Employee Commuting** in Scope 3. An extrapolation was made for this, as not all employees were able to take part in the survey. In addition, for the **Capital Goods** category, emissions were written off over five years in order to ensure comparability over different years. In addition, the emissions from **Purchased Heating** consumption for 2019 were calculated for both locations on the basis of the energy certificate.

Verification

The review of the GHG balance for 2019 was carried out by Fraunhofer UMSICHT. The balance sheet of the entire Buhck Group, one of the shareholders of the e-systems Group, was checked and confirmed with regard to the methodical approach, the CO₂ emission factors and plausibility.

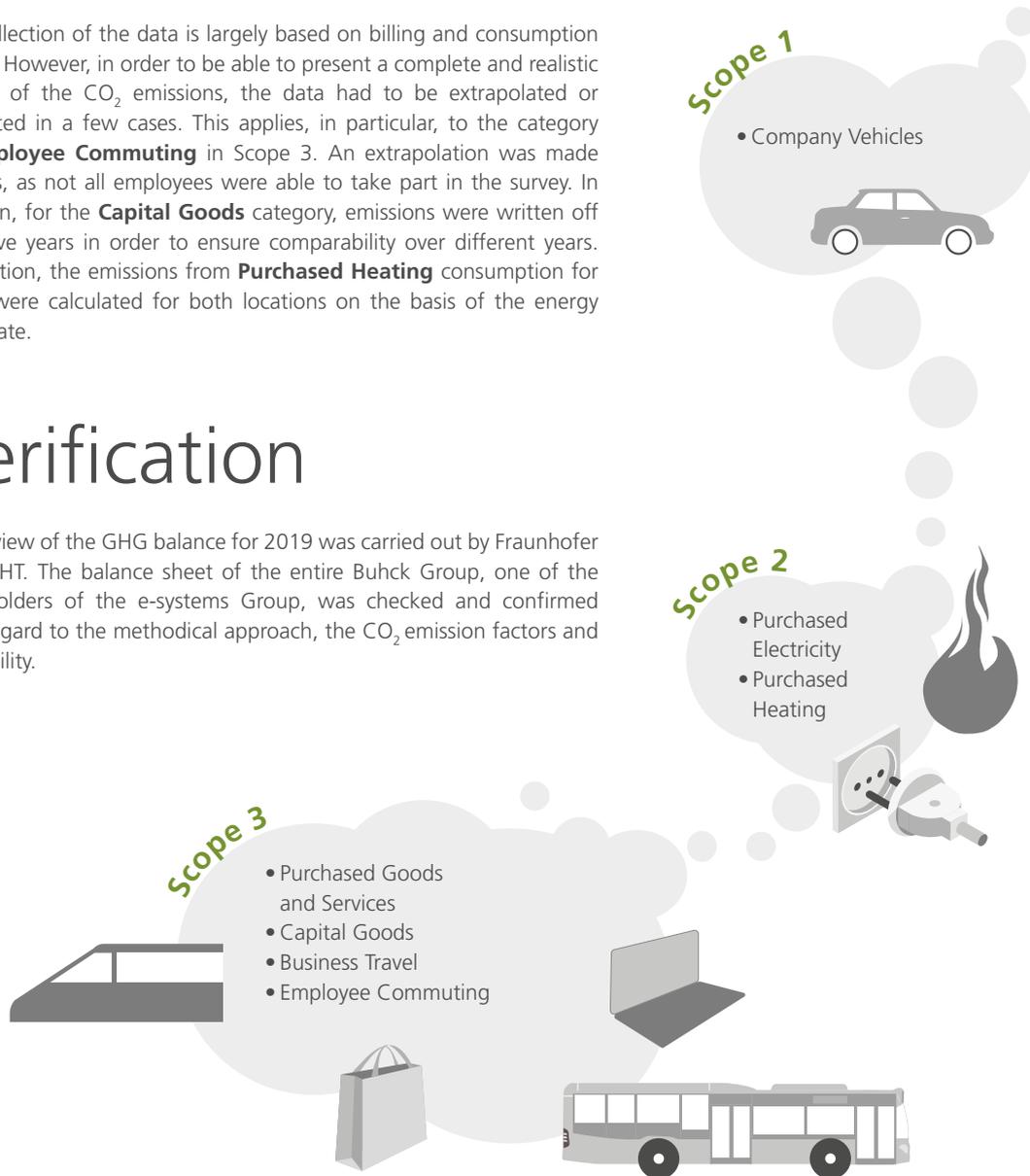


Figure 8: Covered Categories

Compensation

and Reduction Measures

The GHG balance described above forms the basis for both compensation and reduction measures, with the help of which we want to approach climate neutrality step by step.

Compensation Measures

The compensatory measures are limited to the emissions of the e-systems Group from Scope 1 and Scope 2, whereby the CO₂ emissions of the two areas for the base year 2019 were 100 % compensated. This corresponds to a value of 49.63 tCO₂e. The compensation is carried out by one of the parent companies of e-systems – Buhck Umweltservices GmbH & Co. KG.

With the mediation of AQ Green TeC GmbH, this is currently happening through the annual acquisition of CO₂ certificates to offset our direct and indirect emissions from the use of our vehicles, heat and, in some cases, electricity. Carbonbay GmbH & Co. KG uses the income from the CO₂ certificates for the maintenance and operation of three small hydropower plants in Honduras. The projects funded by Buhck Umweltservices GmbH & Co. KG were awarded with the climate program standard, called Gold Standard⁷.

⁷ The Gold Standard certifies climate initiatives that, among other things, reduce greenhouse gases. According to the German Environment Agency, this is an important quality standard for climate projects.

Promotion of Regional Climate Protection

In order to also make a contribution to climate protection at the regional level, one of our shareholders is participating in the renaturation of the Herrenmoors in Schleswig-Holstein.⁸ Among other things, this project aims to protect and preserve species typical of raised bogs and to promote peat growth by stabilising the water balance. In this way, an estimated 2,565 tCO₂ are bound annually.

Reduction Measures

We are at the beginning of our climate protection journey. In the long term, we plan not only to offset our CO₂ emissions, but also to reduce our emissions step by step.

In Scope 3, in particular, we see opportunities to reduce our CO₂ emissions through our own measures. For Scopes 1 and 2, however, the savings potential is limited due to our business activities and our location.

Following the creation of the GHG balance, a climate protection roadmap was developed which provides measures in various areas for the group of our companies. In order to allow all employees to participate in the creation of this roadmap, a suggestion system was set up. Employees can continuously contribute their own suggestions through this system. The measures already implemented include the integration of the aspect of our carbon footprint in the purchase of certain products (e. g. climate-neutral paper), standard double-sided printing, a purely digital payroll for all employees and the integration of climate protection aspects into the travel policy. We aim to implement at least three different measures per year.

our path
to climate
neutrality



⁸ The project is managed by Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein e. V.



Outlook

As the e-systems Group, we understand carbon footprint management as a continuous path that we have increasingly focused on due to its enormous relevance. With this Carbon Footprint Report, we have taken an important first step towards recording the CO₂ footprint of our e-systems Group. It thus forms the basis for making the impact of future reduction measures quantifiable and for enabling continuous improvement.

With the aim of implementing at least three measures to reduce CO₂ in 2021, we want to push climate protection in our companies even further this year. This includes the plans to replace our pool vehicle with sharing offers, to promote the use of public transport and to enable our employees to work from home more often (regardless of the COVID-19-related requirements). In addition, we aim to meet the international environmental management standard ISO 14001 in 2022 and, in the future, to support our customers in their environmental protection efforts as part of our services.

True to our slogan **acting consciously**, we want to live up to our corporate responsibility with these approaches, make an active contribution to protecting the climate and always keep an eye on the effects on our environment in the future.



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